

**NEWS from**

# **DENNIS HANSBERGER**

**San Bernardino County Supervisor, Third District**



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## **Hansberger, Mitzelfelt Address Metal Theft**

Tuesday, Supervisor Hansberger, along with Supervisor Mitzelfelt, called for an investigation to review the growing problem of metal theft throughout San Bernardino County. Due to the increased value of precious metals, such as copper, bronze, and aluminum, metal theft has increased significantly. This problem is exacerbated by the current real estate market and foreclosures, leaving vacant homes as targets for the thieves.

Reports indicate that copper has been stolen from such places as vacant homes, businesses, construction sites, Little League field lights, and other light posts. The value of copper has risen from \$.70 a pound three years ago to currently \$3.00 to \$3.50 a pound.

In October 2007, Edison was forced to shut off power to 13,800 customers because of safety concerns after the theft of copper ground wires from their substation in Hesperia. The power outage affected traffic signals, which caused major traffic incidents in the area.

“We must address this issue immediately in order to prevent criminal activities from occurring in our neighborhoods that not only pose public safety issues, but also lower property values,” said Supervisor Hansberger. “We will seek support of a statewide solution through legislation; however, in the meantime there is a need to address this situation locally.”

On Tuesday, the Board directed the Sheriff’s Department, the Office of Legislative Affairs, and the County Administrative Officer to investigate, review, and report their findings on these illegal activities and propose possible solutions to mitigate negative impacts. All must report back to the Board on April 22, 2008.

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